

## WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 E-MAIL ADDRESS: [staug@htc.net](mailto:staug@htc.net)

PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.staugustineofcanterburyhecker.com>

To contact Father Linus Umoren, CM, please call Parish Office

St. Vincent de Paul Help Line 618-792-4059

House of Neighborly Service Help Line 618-939-8680

**Confessions:** Heard Saturdays from 4:30 to 4:50 pm (When priests are available)

**VOL. 61 NO. 49 December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### **Theme for The Second Sunday in Advent**

Reform your lives, live in Gods peace, so that justice may flourish.

#### **MASS INTENTIONS:**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Friday 12/05    | 8:00 am- Special Intention  |
| Saturday, 12/06 | 5:00 pm – For Our Parish of St. Augustine                                       |
| Sunday, 12/07   | 8:00 am- Jerry & Duane Mollet, Cletus& Agnes Gregson                            |
| Monday, 12/08   | 8:00am- Feast of the Immaculate Conception –<br>For Our Parish at St. Augustine |
| Friday, 12/12   | 8:00am- James Scherle   |
| Saturday, 12/13 | 5:00pm- For Our Parish of St. Augustine   |
| Sunday, 12/14   | 8:00am- Gary Rist, Special Intention  |



#### **OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 11-30-25:**

Weekly Envelopes- \$2433.00

Loose- \$448.00

Youth- \$4.00

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection- \$

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-*  
**\$1481.30**

**Thank you very much for your generosity!**

**SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND**

**Saturday, December 13th, 2025, 5pm**

Set Up: Kevin Schreder  
Servers: Mallory Kern  
Lector: Kevin Schreder  
Extraordinary Minister: Angie Kern  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Gary Wittenauer  
Camera:

**Sunday, December 7th, 2025, 8am**

Set Up: Margie Holle  
Servers: Doerr's  
Lector: Ryan Grohmann  
Extraordinary Minister: Kyle Doerr  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Margie Holle  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Betty Schreder  
Camera:

**Please pray for the following:**

Darlene Frisch, Jeanelle Dinan, Madalyn Killebrew, Kenny Kern, Ricky Wittenauer, Ava Kern, Nancy Grohmann, Jim & Joanne Cowell, Helen Parker, Mike Rheinecker, Evelyn Kelley Marquart, Roger Cortner, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Annette Lovelace, Geri Griffin, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Sydney Furman, Delbert Wittenauer, Dorothy Christiansen, Joan Wittenauer, Arline Wittenauer, Michael Houglan.

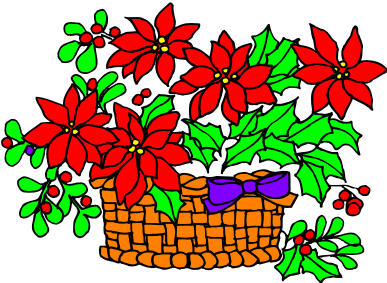
For Active Service Personnel: Justin S. Bushong, United States Coast Guard, Austin Grohmann, United States Marine Corps, and Austin Gregson, United States Marine Corps.



Congratulations and Many Blessings for Sister Sarah Harbaugh who on Saturday, December 6, 2025, celebrated her final vows with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, at St. Augustine's Church. Sarah, as you dedicate your life to God may you receive his rich blessings and keep you close to Him.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- St. Augustine's will have an 8:00am mass on December 8th, 2025, for the Holyday of Obligation, The Immaculate Conception.
- Christmas Flower Donations are to be in by 14<sup>th</sup> of December.
- **Give the Gift that keeps on Giving...*The Messenger!***  
To subscribe online for Family or Friends go to:  
[www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org) or **Call 618-233-8670**



The Blessed Virgin Altar Sodality will hold its annual Christmas Party Luncheon on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon in the Parish Center. Please call Mary Schaltenbrand at (618) 973-0994 or Annette Schreder at (618) 791-6665 for reservations.

Ladies, please plan to attend!

## **Gibault Updates**

ALL Future Hawks are invited to attend Future Hawks Night at the Girls' Basketball Game Monday, December 8th. Help us Cheer on our Lady Hawks as they battle against Staunton!

The 2026-27 New Student Application deadline to be included in our January 16 Acceptance Day event is Monday, January 5, 2026. Go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click "APPLY" to apply. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders can schedule a shadow visit and spend the day with one of our Student Ambassadors. Go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click "INQUIRE" to request more information. Questions can also be emailed to our Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker at [pkueker@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:pkueker@gibaulthawks.com).

## **DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE -- PROJECT RACHEL**

Project Rachel is an active ministry in the Diocese of Belleville!!! Planned Parenthood continues to see women (some report one woman every 20 minutes six days a week).

It is so vital that we be there for these women to offer free and confidential help in their

time of need. It is our hope to continue to foster a sense of compassion in our communities making them a safe place to welcome those who suffer after an abortion

and encourage reconciliation and healing in Jesus Christ. Those in need of help and counseling can confidentially contact someone by phone or email. Here's a link to Project Rachel on the diocesan website with additional information:

<https://www.diobelle.org/respectlife/project-rachel>.

## **Vocations**

"I had the great blessing of growing up in a family in which faith was lived in a simple, practical way. However, it was my paternal grandmother in particular who influenced my journey of faith. She was a woman who explained to us, who talked to us about Jesus, who taught us the catechism. The first proclamation is at home, in the family! And this makes me think of the love of so many mothers and grandmothers in the transmission of faith. One day in particular, though, was very important to me: Sept. 21, 1953. I was almost 17. It was "Students' Day." Before going to the celebration, I passed through the parish I normally attended, I found a priest that I did not know, and I felt the need to go to confession. For me this was an experience of encounter: I found that someone was waiting for me .... After making my confession, I felt something had changed. I was not the same. I had heard something like voice, or a call. I was convinced that I should become a priest."

Pope Francis; Vigil of Pentecost Address, May 18, 2013



### **12-7-25 Respect Life Corner**

On December 8th, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (This feast is a holy day of obligation for dioceses in the United States.) On this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of fertilization: "You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb" (Ps 139:13).

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## Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent

*The Sunday School teacher was telling the kindergarteners the story of Joseph and coat of many colors. Teacher: "Then Joseph's brothers got angry about their father giving Joseph the coat, so they sold him to some traders passing by in a caravan." One 5-year-old from the back suddenly said, "They had the same kind of car we have! We have a Caravan!"*

In the first reading this weekend, prophet Isaiah presents a vision of the Kingdom of God that seems very unrealistic: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fating together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den" (Isaiah 11:6-8 NAB). Isaiah's description of the kingdom of God does not seem to fit our experience of the world. Can you imagine a weaned child putting his hand on the adder's den? That sounds insane.

But Isaiah is describing a world as intended by God; a world where God is God, and all people are created in his image to be His co-creators. To build the Kingdom of God, therefore, we must believe that even our smallest actions of goodness, forgiveness, love, and kindness creates, rehabilitates, and have a blessing value. To some, it might seem insignificant to sit with a friend for an hour as they grieves the death of a spouse, to visit a single person in prison, to support an addict on the road to recovery, or to help someone find a job. But these small actions of goodness mark us as disciples of Jesus and move our world one step closer to God's Kingdom.

To participate in building the kingdom, we must be people of the heart. How can we be people of the heart? John the Baptist in the Gospel this weekend introduces us to the desert experience. He shows us how the path of the desert leads to the heart. Repentance is the beginning of the journey into the heart. And until we enter into solitude and do some inner work, we would always be one-sided people. It is in the heart that we can ask ourselves earnest questions: why do I only do things to protect myself? Why do I allow myself to be used to perpetuate lousy policies? When we arrive at the heart, we would learn the truth about loving God and neighbor; then, we would become the medium for the institution of God's kingdom as Isaiah describes it.



**The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal**  
***Hope in the Lord***

Did you know **YOUR GIFT** to the 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal can be made online? Visit your Belleville Diocese's website at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) and click on "Giving". It's that simple! Every donation – large or small – is needed to continue our diocesan ministry to those in need. We are counting on **YOU**. Please visit [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) today!

**PLEDGES TO DATE: 31 103% OF OUR GOAL MET**

**\$6,968.00.00 pledged of 10/12/2025 \$6,718.00 is the Parish Financial Target**



**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**



**CHRISTMAS EVE – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025**  
**Vigil Mass – 4:00 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025**  
**Mass – 9:00 a.m.**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**(Holy day of Obligation)**  
**Thursday, January 1, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.**